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OCT 20 2006

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the Title as follows:

**PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC HEAD HAVING THERMALLY ASSISTED
RECORDING ELEMENT, AND METHOD OF FABRICATION THEREFOR**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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As has been indicated hereabove, the present invention is a perpendicular magnetic head including a heater element that provides thermal assistance in recording data bits to high coercivity magnetic media. A first embodiment of a perpendicular magnetic head 16 of the present invention is next depicted in Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7, wherein Fig. 4 is a perspective view depicting significant components of the head, Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the head depicted in Fig. 4, Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along lines 6-6 of Fig. 5, and Fig. 7 is a top plan view of the heater element depicted in Figs. 4-6. As depicted in Figs. 4-7, a heater structure 126 is next fabricated on top of the insulation layer 69. The heater structure 126 may be fabricated using well known photolithographic techniques in which an electrically resistive heater element 130 and electrical leads 134 to the heater element are successively fabricated. A detailed description of the fabrication of such a heater element is provided in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. SJO920020096US 10/791,186, filed March 1, 2004, entitled: Magnetic Head Having Thermally Assisted Recording Device, and Method of Fabrication Thereof, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein as though set forth in full. Basically, the heater structure 126 includes a central electrically resistive heater 130 that is fabricated beneath the location in which the pole tip will subsequently be fabricated. It is desirable that the active heating portion 130 of the heater be approximately as wide as the track width of the pole tip because it is undesirable to heat portions of the magnetic media disposed on data tracks that are

adjacent to the track that is being written upon. As is seen in Figs. 4-7, the heating element 130 may be fabricated first, followed by the electrical lead elements 134 that project laterally from the heating element. It is desirable, though not necessary, that the heating element 130 be fabricated slightly away from the air bearing surface (ABS) 34 of the head, to limit corrosion of the heater element and possible electrical discharge from the heater element to the media disk during a writing operation.

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